

From: Marc Alexander Toppel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 1:38am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Reader,

I do not know who is reading this, but I hope you to be a rational, freedom loving person--someone who's main goal in life is too retain justice in a world that has become devoid of it. It is with this said that I must describe the reasons why the Microsoft Antitrust Case is nothing but wrong for various reasons.

I know the main purpose of antitrust laws. They are pragmatic at best. They hope to make things better for the whole society. However, we live in a country that was founded on principles of justice, blind of how it might affect others. If habeus corpus was stricken from our constitution, I'm sure the judicial system would be alot more streamlined, but would it be just? If we took away people's inborn right to speak freely, the government would no longer have to deal with opposing viewpoints and more things could be accomplished, but is it right? A dictator could come in and implement a system with which every aspect of our lives were managed for the good of society, yet dosen't that vanquish our right to make our own decisions in life, bad or good? For everything that you do, think not of what the practical implications may be, please think of what is right.

With that knowledge in mind, I must proclaim to you that anti-trust actions fall short of practical. I myself do not have the economics no-how to explain this to you, but I have come across countless essays documenting the benefits of a laissez-faire world. I will leave such things to the more qualified experts. I do, however, stand with the faculties to defend Microsoft morally.

They created their products. Consumers decided they liked them. Companies began to recognize this so THEY DECIDED to enter contracts with Microsoft to use their products. Competitors volunteered to compete against Microsoft, yet some failed either because they created inferior products or they lacked the long term planning necessary to establish brand recognition and reliability. If you'll notice, everything here was done VOLUNTARILY. No one forced anyone to do anything. Customers were free to buy or not buy products. Companies were free to sign or not sign contracts. Competitors were free to create better or worse products.

Do not mess up this free society and force Microsoft to adhere to your beliefs, for if you do, we become one step closer to a totalitarian regime. However, If you drop the case and subsequently remove antitrust laws from the books, we stay that much closer to the place that our fore fathers envisioned so long ago.

Thank you for your time,
Marc Toppel, age 18

mtoppel@mail.utexas.edu
936-441-6575
10 Baron's Place
Conroe, Texas 77304